

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the subject application as amended herein is respectfully requested.

It is noted that the second page of the Office Action of June 7, 2004 is erroneous in that it refers only to claims 1-8. The subject application (prior to the current amendment) includes claims 1-9.

The claims of the subject application, including claim 3, have been rejected as being anticipated by, or obvious over Mori alone or in combination with Nakayama. Claim 1 as amended to include the limitations of original claim 3 recites specific numerical expressions for optical characteristics of the first lens of a three lens system. More specifically, the claim recites a range of values for the ratio f_1/f and r_1/f . The Mori reference merely shows numerical values of the focal length and the radius of curvature separately in tables and fails to disclose the numerical expressions of amended claim 1.

Therefore it is respectfully submitted that the claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the Mori reference.

Moreover, claims 5, 7 and 9 recite additional numerical expressions that are also missing from the references and, accordingly, these claims are also patentably distinguishable. The remaining claims are dependent on claims 1, 5, or 7 and are likewise patentable.

A relatively early notice of allowance is request. Any additional fees may be charged to Account No. 07-1730.

Respectfully submitted

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